set up Central Institutes for Vocational Studies. However, in order to provide technical and academic resource support to States/ UTs for starting vocational courses, it is proposed to strengthen the existing Department of Vocationalisation of Education in NCERT with the objective of setting up a Central Institute of Vocational Education (CIVE).

[*Translation*]

Closure of Nanda Devi National Parks

*265. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) since when the Nanda Devi National Park has been closed for tourists and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the Government propose to re-open the park in view of the increasing demand of the tourists and also to save the fauna of the region from extinction;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d). The management and control fo national parks and sanctuaries vest with the concerned State Government. The Nanda Devi National Park is reported to have been closed to tourists since 1983, on the instructions of Chief Wildlife Warden, Government of Uttar Pradesh. The measure has been taken mainly to protect and conserve the fragile eco-system of the park.

The Nanda Devi National Park, which is also the 'core' of the Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve, is an unique ecosystem in the Garhwal Himalaya by virtue of its location, topography, climate and vegetation cover. In the past mountain expeditions entering the park used wood for burning, and camping sites were used to be cleared and littered with non-biodegradable material. Pack animals accompanying the expeditions used to graze in the ecologically fragile areas. In view of this past experience and the fact that the above activities are unavoidable if tourists are allowed to enter the Park, there is no proposal to reopen the Nanda Devi National Park to tourists.

[*English*]

Requirement of Medical Facilities

*266. SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of registered medical practitioners (graduates and licentiates, separately) practising Allopathy, Ayurveda and Homoeopathy systems of medicine in 1989 and 1990;

(b) the number of Government hospitals and dispensaries during the corresponding period;

(c) the total number of beds available and the availability of beds per lakh of population during the same period;

(d) the percentage of doctors, hospitals/ dispensaries and beds available in urban and rural areas; and

(e) the requirements of doctors, hospitals, dispensaries and beds by 2000 A.D?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR): (a) to (e). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.